

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christa Hildebrand on 8/11/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 17, line 10, the period has been replaced with --; and wherein the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve form a double wall at least in a region proximate to the at least one opening, said double wall in the proximate region being formed by squeezing together the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve.--

Claim 18 has been canceled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose, singly or in combination, a plug-in connection as claimed in detail in claim 17.

The closest prior art is Calmettes et al (US 5,273,323) and Garvey (CA 1 269 683). The claims are allowable over Calmettes et al for the reasons set forth in Applicant's remarks filed 5/13/09. The claims are allowable over Garvey as Garvey at

Art Unit: 3679

least fails to teach or fairly suggest the limitation "wherein the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve form a double wall at least in a region proximate to the at least one opening, said double wall in the proximate region being formed by squeezing together the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES M. HEWITT whose telephone number is (571)272-7084. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 930am-600pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3679

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James M Hewitt/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679